



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Belleville City Council discusses pros, cons of Strawberry Festival

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

An hour-long discussion on the Belleville National Strawberry Festival took place at the Belleville City Council's Feb. 18 meeting and at the end the future of the festival was in doubt.

On the agenda was the annual approval for Strawberry Festival policies and that's what set off the discussion.

The festival's executive director Joan Bodnar and its vendor coordinator Sharon Pokorwinski were in the front row of the audience, present to answer any questions.

Bodnar said the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce will come to the council separately to present a request for the carnival. She said there were no changes to the policy from last year.

Councilman Tom Fielder, who also is president of the festival, said the usual procedure is to refer the policy to the city manager for a recommendation.

Fire Chief Brian Loranger said, "The dogs annoy the crap out of me, and the skateboards." He asked if just the police department handled enforcement of the no dogs, no skateboards rules.

Bodnar said when she sees people with dogs, she goes out and tells them to leave. She said she also asks the police for help and they are very helpful.

Although signs tell of the no-dogs, no-skateboard rules for the festival, the signs are posted at each end of Main Street. Chief Loranger asked if the signs can be put at each intersection, at each side street.

Mike Kole of the chamber of commerce said the chamber wants to negotiate with the city manager because it has been unfairly charged for numerous things.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said with the newly hired interim city manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz, she will take a new look at it with a fresh set of eyes.

(continued on page 8)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

The Cross Town Horn Band leads participants in Friday's Mardi Gras party out of the old Fred C. Fischer Library for a walk to peek in the front door of the new library next door. The Fischer library is slated to be torn down and a parking lot installed. On Saturday at noon, staff members and volunteers will form a Book Brigade to pass the last few books left in the Fischer library to the new library. Then, the new library is slated to open to the public, if it has by then received its certificate of occupancy from the City of Belleville. This would be a "soft opening" with the big, grand opening slated for noon on Saturday, July 25. By then, the new parking lot and landscaping is expected to be complete. From 12:30 to 9 p.m. on July 25, the Belleville Area Council for the Arts' Music Committee will present the Belleville Blues Festival and Main Street will be closed for the celebration.

Sumpter Twp. planners postpone decision on paintball field on Judd

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After an-hour-and-a-half public hearing before a packed, noisy meeting room on Feb. 13, the Sumpter Township Planning Commission decided to postpone any action for two months on a request for special land use exception for an outdoor recreation area on Judd Road.

Earle Mott and his son Alex of Farmington would like to buy the vacant

58 acres available on the north side of Judd, between Sumpter and Martinsville, to be used for a low-impact, pneumatic paintball field, with possible future use for laser tag and a private soccer practice field.

Alex said they've had a paintball store in Livonia for five years and they would like to have an area for their customers and others to enjoy.

Sumpter's planning consultant Chris Atkin said they did not expect all this opposition and a big crowd. He said there is no rezoning planned from the RF zoning and the use proposed is very low impact. It will not operate after dark.

He said a stream cuts through the property and nothing is planned beyond the stream

which is wetlands. Existing tree lines will stay in place as 100-foot buffers, with a 250-foot buffer to the southeast. More trees will be added at the east property line that is next to a vacant parcel, that may not be vacant in the future.

Parking will be in front and the existing approach will be used to provide two-way traffic.

He said four shipping containers will be stacked to provide a temporary office with a walk-up window for registration and a storage area. Gravel will be added for the drive and parking, or other improved surface, he said. Additional barrier-free parking will be added and they are talking

(continued on page 7)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

The newly renovated board meeting room of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees opened for the first time just before the Feb. 4 regular board meeting and the public walked around and admired the changes before the meeting. The board room had been closed for two months while work continued on the renovations by Davenport Brothers Construction. Architect was Wayde Hoppe. This room was part of the capital improvement plan for the township hall approved by the board last year. It was \$750,000 when it was approved, but Supervisor Kevin McNamara said it was more like a million dollars spent on the township hall. The board meeting room got a new ceiling, lighting, wall paint, and carpeting, along with new chairs, a refaced board table and new table surface, as well as a new safety exit door at the right and other changes.

VBT residents ask board to stop all development until water issue solved

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Rick Williams and Bob Manier of the 44000 block of Tyler Road, just east of Meijer, asked the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees to stop all development until the water issue is worked out in the township.

This was at the Feb. 4 meeting.

Williams of 44521 and 44429 Tyler Rd. said over the last 22 years the ground around his houses has been getting wetter and wetter.

"My house has a pond next to it after a rain," he said.

He said he contacted the township and Director of Public Service Matthew Best said the problem is with the drain and is partially Williams' fault.

"I can't rent my other house and water is seven feet from my house," Williams said.

Manier of 44401 Tyler Rd. said he has a water problem, too, and all he gets is the runaround from the road commission and drain commission.

He said there are 24 inches of water right next to his house and his crawl space is at ground level. Many pieces of equipment in

his out building have been destroyed. He put in \$3,000 worth of work last year.

"I can't sell my house," he said, referring to plans to move to Florida to be near his grandchildren.

He said the drain line needs to be reestablished.

Manier said the township came in its blue truck and sucked up the water and then the truck got stuck. After they got unstuck, he said they told him they'd be back, but they never came back.

He said the Meijer drainage pond is 938 yards from the county drain and it needs to empty there instead of on the surface.

He said he has five acres of land in back and he can't go there because of the water.

"I'm the last one at the end of that drain," he said.

Manier said he tried to backfill his land and after he dumped soil in back, the township said to stop or he'd be fined. He said they wouldn't let him move the dirt and he had to level it where it was, which made conditions worse.

He said the one to blame for all of this is the VBT engineer who approved that drainage pond. Manier said they try to say

it's his fault.

Manier said the Speedway parking lot on the corner of Tyler and Belleville roads drains across Tyler Road and comes down the road to his property.

"It's disgusting," he said.

"We are concerned," said VBT Treasurer Sherry Budd who was chairing the meeting in the absence of ailing Supervisor Kevin McNamara.

Treasurer Budd said she is asking Director Best to give a report to the board and, "We'll see what we can do to help. We will try to help to figure it out."

"Who is responsible?" asked Trustee Sherry Frazier.

Manier said the drainage pond is 938 yards away from the county drain and the pond should be draining into the drain to take the water away.

"That's ridiculous," said Trustee Frazier, adding she's sure Director Best will be able to help.

"Just dig the trench all the way to the Cleary Drain," Manier said, adding they would have to make sure the drain was cleared so the water could flow. He said there are trees in the drain now.

"We will get back to you," Budd said.

In other business at the one-hour-and-ten-minute meeting on Feb. 4, the board:

- Approved on a roll-call vote the second (final) reading of the rezoning of a small strip at 8001 Haggerty Rd. from C-1 General Business to M-1 Light Industrial to make the whole acreage the same zoning. The township had asked for the rezoning;

- Approved purchase of a 2020 Ford F-350 for the Fire Department from Atchinson Ford for \$47,736.60 to pull the now heavier dive team trailer and serve as an off-road brush fire truck. The current F-350 did not have the power to pull the heavier trailer. That truck will be kept in use for field fires and other uses;

- Approved the maintenance agreement with US Signal which outlines its responsibility to maintain the sanitary connect to the township's sanitary manhole at 9275 Haggerty Rd. The original plan for the sanitary connect was not possible because of huge boulders, utilities, and fiber optics found in the pathway;

- Approved the supervisor's appointment of Penny Young as an alternate to the Board

(continued on page 21)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Sumpter Twp. fires *Independent* as newspaper of record

After more than 13 years of being newspaper of record for Sumpter Township, on Tuesday the board voted unanimously without comment to engage *The Eagle* of Associated Newspapers as the new newspaper of record, effective immediately.

This doesn't mean the *Independent* will stop covering Sumpter Township news, but only that any legal notices would be in *The Eagle*.

When a member of the audience asked where they could get *The Eagle*, Sharon Pokerwinski said it would be delivered anywhere "Rosemary delivered her garbage paper." She said if anyone needed a paper, they should call her and she would deliver it to them.

A year ago, Pokerwinski brought *The Eagle* owner to a Sumpter meeting to try to get the township to change newspaper of record designation, but she failed. This year she succeeded.

Pokerwinski came to the *Independent* office last year, pointed her finger at the editor and vowed to put the *Independent* out of business because she didn't like what was printed.

At Sumpter's meeting Tuesday, editor Rosemary Otzman thanked the board for allowing the *Independent* to serve it as newspaper of record for 13 years. This was followed by applause from some in the audience. You can look for your Sumpter legals in *The Eagle* and your Sumpter news in the *Independent*.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

At 34th District Court on Feb. 12, I sat through a preliminary exam for a case out of Romulus. An employee of the Sheraton hotel was the complainant in a criminal sexual conduct case against an intoxicated woman who hit him on the butt. There was a witness.

Her retained attorney said CSC means intentional touching for sexual purposes and this was an assault and battery.

Judge Oakley said he wouldn't have bound her over to the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on a felony charge of criminal sexual conduct for the butt slap, if she hadn't stated that he was lucky she didn't grab him in another location: "the nuts comment."

My son Jim reports that he was on a shopping trip through Menards when he heard the beeping of floor-cleaning equipment. He stopped and when the equipment came into sight he saw a stuffed bear secured by a seat belt was driving the equipment. The equipment stopped because it sensed Jim in its pathway. He stepped back an inch or two and the equipment stopped beeping and went on its way. What a good job for artificial intelligence.

After I got home from Friday's Mardi Gras party at the Fred C. Fischer Library, I heard a call on the police scanner for an emergency at the library. Dispatch said that a child had fallen after climbing a fence, hit his head, and was vomiting. Dispatch said to be advised the area was crowded because of the library event.

On Monday, Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said, actually, a child fell off a bench



inside the library and he is OK.

The party to say goodbye to the Fred C. Fischer building drew a large crowd although Fred C. Fischer himself didn't attend, as was announced in advance. Rick Dawson came dressed as Mr. Moon, Belleville's first librarian. They said Fred couldn't make it. Rick did not have the long white beard that photos of Moon always had, but he looked great.

Lots of people wore bright masks and lots of beads, in the manner of the Mardi Gras, which they said was a happy-sad celebration. Also there was an interesting video presented showing old pictures of the library and its users. It was a very nice send-off.

We got a post on our website on our story about Belleville's walker Aleta. Mary wrote: "I graduated from Cabrini High School in Allen Park with Aleta in 1967. We made friends in third grade and, I feel, remained so through our 20s, when we lost touch due to military moves with my husband, and after that, due to his job. I spent a lot of time at her home in Allen Park as kids, with late mom, Amelia Skomski, and her siblings, Calvin, Phillip, Tricia and Nadine. Many may not know that Aleta went to Madonna College (now university) and was a smart and artistically talented woman. I believe she had an art degree from Madonna. Rest In Peace, my friend."

People in our community saw Aleta walking, some offered her rides, some gave her rides. Many have said they wanted to know more about her. This is a little bit more.

Last Sunday I happened to be sitting in the Urgent Care waiting room with my son Bill, who needed some medical help. After he went in to see a doctor or whoever was on duty, I was alone and I heard the lady behind me reading last week's editorial about the Strawberry Fest and its possible demise. She seemed to be reading to someone on her cell phone.

Then she talked about Aleta and how she would walk wearing shoes that weren't good on stones. I didn't turn around to look at the woman, but she sure does read the *Independent*. I didn't mean to eavesdrop on her call, but she was speaking very loudly. It is interesting to hear what people say about the stories we write.

There was no way I could go to Manistee to attend Judge Parrott's bond hearing on Tuesday morning, so I was delighted when Bob Mytych handed me his cell phone where the hearing was being televised live by WXYZ. I got to attend the hearing, after all.





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Letters

Should we have a Strawberry Festival?

To the editor:

As the Chamber of Commerce, we represent the will of the business community in the Van Buren, Belleville, and Sumpter area. With nearly 200 members and growing, it is our responsibility to provide services, features, and advocacy on their behalf. Since the reorganization of the chamber in September 2019, we have collected extensive opinions, data, and suggestions from the members on how to move forward.

In the *Belleville Independent* editorial, it states that the Chamber "ran a small poll and found 70% of the Chamber members wouldn't come to the festival. Most closed their doors for the weekend."

We would like to add some context to this quote.

The board has collected extensive data from the members and the community since September last year. The data is very clear, that the Strawberry Festival is the least important of all the priorities for the Chamber. There has been member-only, as well as community surveys that show the Strawberry Festival clearly ranks on the bottom of every list. In the most recent informal poll, 100% of the comments regarding the festival would be perceived as negative, and 70% of both members and community polled, planned on not attending this year. Although the surveys and questions have all been informal, the board feels that they have enough data to make firm decisions.

Long Overdue Discussion

The conversation that took place at the City Council meeting was long overdue. Councilman Voigt clearly asked multiple times what the benefit to the community is for having the festival. The committee representing the festival could not answer this question. The data that your chamber has collected, the absence of the original founding member of the festival, St. Anthony's, and the lack of benefit to the nonprofit groups in the area, is the answer to that question. The festival can boast attendance, but not benefits as originally dictated in their incorporation in 1986.

During the monthly Chamber of Commerce Board meeting, there was a report from the Strawberry Committee representative, regarding this City Council meeting discussion. Deliberations and suggestions for how to move forward were discussed and the board *unanimously* voted the following:

"Should the City Council approve the permit for the Strawberry Festival for 2020, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce will share a minimum of 50% of the net proceeds to participating and volunteering member non-profit groups of the Chamber." The non-profits choosing to volunteer at the carnival, and other areas that the Chamber is responsible for, will

share in these funds proportionately.

A second motion was unanimously supported that stated:

"The Chamber of Commerce Building will provide its entire space, free of charge, to any non-profit member group that wants to set up a table inside the Chamber offices." The basic requirements are that the participants be members of the chamber, and that they display, give away, or promote something regarding strawberries. The tables can be used to inform, recruit, or raise funds for the participants.

The intent of both of these motions, was to bring back the *main purpose* of the Strawberry Festival. As noted in the original Articles of Incorporation:

"The purpose is to perpetuate a continual community project with a theme of strawberries grown in the area to provide supplemental fund raising for all participating civic, church, and non-profit organizations in the Belleville area, strengthen community spirit and pride and give the Belleville area national identity."

Clarifying Quote

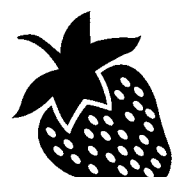
The Chamber has been quoted as stating that "we don't need the \$12,000." That may seem a bit arrogant to some. However, our Board believes that integrity is key to its future. Putting massive effort into an event our membership is clearly against, would mean that the money is more important than their requirements. This is an "ends justifies the means" argument, and not one that we feel should be perpetuated. This is what resulted in our motions above. Should we be able to continue with the support of those non-profits, we feel then that the ends will be justified.

In closing, the Chamber is not against City festivals. That would be hypocritical considering our own WinterFest that was attended by *thousands of residents* just a few months ago. The Chamber did this with the full support of its *local members* who sponsored 100% of the activities. We also went into the planning of the event with the residents, community, and local businesses as our first priority. We developed a well-executed, four-day event, limiting the disruptions of life and business to only three hours during the parade timing itself. The board considers this event to be the *Premier Event* in the Belleville community, and our members agree.

Should the Strawberry Festival continue? This is the same question the Chamber asked itself a little less than a year ago. A new board, new leadership, clear focus, and winning attitude came from that self-assessment.

What will come from the *Independent* and Councilman Voigt's question?

Michael Kole
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More Letters

Charge from Sumpter is politically motivated

To the editor:

Wayne County Prosecutor Kim Worthy Detroit, MI (313-224-5777) has created a Prosecutor Conviction Integrity Unit, along with Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. Phone number (517-335-7622). Inspector General of Michigan, Alan Kimichik (855-643-7283) toll free.

Please view 34th District Court Romulus, MI recently arrested Judge David M. Parrott for Domestic Violence/Drugs/Alcohol according to published reports. This judge presided in my case. Please view Judge David M. Parrott charges see the Detroit News/Free Press, the Belleville Independent newspaper, The Eagle newspaper and Associates.

The crimes/charges were carried on local channels 2, 4, 7, 20. See further information on the internet. My case is on appeal in Circuit Court in Detroit, MI and I shall go to the Michigan Court of Appeals to seek justice, if necessary. This is my case #18-0897 Ronald Barrington Robinson vs Sumpter Township, MI, a minor ordinance violation?

It all stems from my politics and activist roles in Sumpter Township. I'm an elected precinct delegate. I've spoken to hundreds encouraging them if they want change, to Vote. I have had a new travel trailer on almost four acres of vacant property I own in Sumpter Township, MI for 16 years without any issues or violations and was told to move it. There have been three ordinance officers within that period of time and no violations were ever issued. We do not live on this trailer. We have a three-bedroom home several miles away. We enjoy the country atmosphere, watching the wildlife that abounds in this country setting such as wild turkeys, ducks, deer. Our property is well-kept. We have three small sheds for lawn mowers, lawn furniture, and several fruit trees. The fruits are harvested and given to food shelters.

I own two horses, both poisoned during the 2016 primary race. One died. Built four flower gardens and there are hundreds of trees that provide fresh air to the environment. I refused to move my trailer on Property Rights and Constitutional grounds. In my case before Judge Parrott I was not allowed to have any witnesses nor was I able to show photos of 15 other trailers on private property "of which are still on vacant land with no houses". Sumpter Township attorney Rob Young was the prosecutor. The judge stated in court he was not going to have a circus in his court room. Judge Parrott assessed me \$2,345 in fines, a \$5,000 bond, two years of probation, with 48 hours community service. All this for a simple misdemeanor?

Justice was clearly absent 100%. The judge and Sumpter Township prosecutor are friends they work in the same 34th

District courthouse in Romulus, MI. I was denied a Constitutionally fair trial. IT'S ALL POLITICALLY MOTIVATED BY OFFICIALS Past and Present in Sumpter Township, MI. We have identified over 15 other travel trailers on vacant property, but no violations were ever issued to them or were they prosecuted. Why?

This whole situation was a SHAM by Sumpter Township officials, the prosecutor, and the judge. My case has also been referred to the Michigan Attorney

General's office, the Inspector General, for investigation and the Michigan Court of Appeals to seek justice in Sumpter Township, MI. If you see wrong say something. Don't let perpetrators get away with intimidation, bullying, harassment and scare tactics because those are the tools they use to deny your rights. When lies and politics triumph over truths and integrity and honesty, you have anarchy. Ronald Barrington Robinson Sumpter Township

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Service Charge	\$4,890.00
Ceremonial Rental Casket	\$1,095.00
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Sumpter Plan

(continued from page 1)

to the fire department about safety.

Alex said his father, sitting in the back row wearing a brace, has a back injury from an accident and he was there to answer any questions and dispel any rumors that have been going around.

A man called out that the site is across the road from the cell tower exit.

The commission provided no maps and did not use the large screen on the wall to project the location of the site. Alex got a paper map from Trustee Matt Oddy and Alex went around the room showing the map to small groups in the crowd.

Alex said neighbors wouldn't be able to see or hear anything. He said later he wished the members of the community would look at this as an asset.

After more than 20 people spoke mostly against the project that they feared would put an end to their rural lifestyle, the owners of the property spoke.

Mary Ellen Rounsifer of Ypsilanti explained that the 58 acres was left to her and her sister when her father, Ron Rounsifer, passed last year. She said the land has been in the family for 100 years and taxes have been paid on it over many years.

After her father passed, they put the property on the market because they had no interest in farming. She said if this project doesn't go through, that property will go back on the market and the final use could be more intrusive than the present plans.

"I like keeping it natural," Mary Ellen said. "I have a lot of good memories there when I was a girl." She said her first home was at 44500 Judd Rd.

Mary Ellen said there are not a lot of activities for people in Sumpter Township. She said when the present roller rink was a bowling alley, her dad was a pin-setter.

Rene Rounsifer of Ann Arbor said the 58 acres is the land her father loved. "I think it would upset him that this is upsetting to the neighbors." She said it would stay as a natural setting.

Rene remembers teaching at Elwell Elementary School and the kids in the

Obituaries

MICHAEL GEORGE PULK

(May 20, 1970 – February 20, 2020)

Age 49, of Taylor, died suddenly. Survived by daughter Shelby, fiancé Michelle Chromey, parents Maureen Smith and Alexander Pulk, brother Marc. Service was Feb. 23 at David C. Brown Funeral Home.

www.davidcbrownfh.com

JAMIE ALENE SHOUGH

(September 19, 1926 – February 16, 2020)

Age 93, of Taylor and longtime Belleville area resident. Grandmother of Jarrett Robson and Kyle Robson, both of Idaho. Cremation has been accorded. Service being planned. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

neighborhood across the street in the mobile home park would use the school playground. All that is gone now.

Oddy made a motion, seconded by Virginia Belinski, to postpone the rest of the public hearing until the April 9 commission meeting to give the developers time to answer the questions about what tax impact there will be, whether it is wetlands, requirements for the temporary building, a grade review for the parking area, and whether there is a utility easement along the edge that would interfere with the project.

The motion passed unanimously.

Alex said the scheduled closing date on the property is March 4 or 5. He said they have been talking with the township about their plans since October.

Towing business

Planner Atkin told the commission a property owner would like to do a towing and impound business on a general industrial property between the tracks and Rawsonville on Bemis. He said this use is not permitted in general industrial zoning now and the zoning would have to be changed to make this possible.

Commissioner Jim Clark said it would end up being an eyesore and Oddy said that would be the place to put it, right next to 4,000 cars at the Auto Auction and more than 2,000 at Fox.

Atkin said he would look into it and bring samples of zonings from other townships to the next meeting.

Commission members present at the meeting were chairwoman Jane Stallmack and Virginia Belinski, Jim Clark, Mary Sherwood, and Trustee Matt Oddy. Absent were Tyrone Borden and Richard Pokerwinski.

Strawberry Queen contest seeks candidates

It's that time again! The Belleville Strawberry Festival is coming in just a few short months and we're going to crown a new Queen! Will it be YOU? Fill out an application and get it turned in to the main office at BHS or email to mrsmi2015@gmail.com. The pageant will be held on Friday, June 19, with limited rehearsals in April, May and June. We **MUST** have all applications turned in by **Friday, March 6**, and there will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** or late entries accepted. We need your participation to ensure the pageant will be held!

Visit me on FB @tiwqueenofqueens1page and Instagram @mrsmi2015

Mikayla Farris named to dean's list at U. of Findlay

FINDLAY, OH -- Mikayla Farris, of Belleville, was named to the fall 2019 dean's list at the University of Findlay. To earn this achievement, a student must attain a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

City of Belleville

(continued from page 1)

Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Marcotte said he is also interested in resetting the city's fee schedule.

That's when Councilman Ken Voigt began a lengthy statement questioning the worth of the festival, which started in 1976.

He said it is the 44th year of the festival and in the beginning there were three churches, strawberry growers, and all the service clubs in town, with a strict no-commercial policy. He said there was a very nice juried craft area in the bank parking lot.

He said the three churches made quite a bit of money for good works and St. Anthony Catholic Church cleared \$100,000 to use for school expenses.

Councilman Voigt said when they let in food vendors, they put the service club food booths out of business because they couldn't compete. And, two of the three churches no longer are involved and there no longer is entertainment downtown.

"The best parts no longer exist," Voigt said.

He said the chamber would make \$40,000 to \$50,000 from the carnival rides and that would fund the chamber activities.

Kole said \$12,000 was cleared by the chamber last year.

The Central Business Community made \$3,500 off the crafters, Voigt said.

Festival treasurer Janet Millard is craft coordinator and gets 20% of the crafter fees.

"Six figures down to this," he said.

"Why are we doing this?" he asked. "Disrupting our town for four days – and no strawberries. Why are we doing this event? Just because we've always done it is no excuse."

He said last year the festival took in \$80,000 and they had to pay Bodnar and Pokerwinski. There was \$800 left.

He said the festival used to give money to the school and it built the stage in Van Buren Park.

"I don't see the benefit of the festival," Voigt said. "And the reason can't be just because we've done it for 44 years."

"Four of us sat on this board for 20 years," said Councilman Fielder. He said they have been trying to reinvent this wheel and haven't come up with anything new.

Councilwoman Kelly Bates suggested they go to other communities and ask them for ideas. When they replied they have gone to other festivals to see what they had, Councilwoman Bates said they should talk directly to their organizers.

Pokerwinski said the other festivals are "different than ours." She said the commercial vendors were in place before she came along.

"I worked with Plymouth for years," Bates said. "It is crafts, not commercial. You want to support small crafters. Get away from the carnival to a street fair."

"We're looking for entertainment under the tent at the Fourth Street Square," Pokerwinski said, adding that takes money and they are looking for sponsors.

"We need to reconceptualize the whole festival," said Barbara Miller.

She suggested a Dragon Boat Festival which would bring people from all over.

"Those are pretty cool," Voigt said.

Miller said it would take several years to get it started and they would need to get a Dragon Boat team.

"Strawberry Festival was great in its time," Miller said. "Last year was a disappointment. It was awful. No entertainment. No buskers."

Voigt said he read the 1986 articles of incorporation of the Strawberry Festival (with his mother-in-law as one of the signers) and the purpose stated was "to perpetuate a continual community project with a theme of strawberries grown in the area to provide supplemental fund raising for all participating civic, church and non-profit organizations in the Belleville area, strengthen community spirit and pride and give the Belleville area national identity."

"Now it's only benefitting the community to the tune of \$15,000. Am I wrong?" Voigt asked.

Bodnar said she's been contacted by 15 tours interested in coming. She said the festival attracts people to town.

"All they see is junk on Main Street and a carnival," Voigt said. "Now I see it as a net negative to the community ... carney rides and elephant ears."

He said if you bring the people to town, all they see is Main Street and it's not doing the city any good economically.

"It's not worth \$15,000 to shut the city down for four days and tax our public

safety," he said. "The decisions made before you [the present festival organizers] allowing commercial vendors in was a big mistake." He said in the late 1980s or early 1990s they started allowing commercial vendors.

Chief Loranger said he doesn't live in the city but he's had his chiropractic office here for 34 years. He said in the early days the Kiwanis sold bratwurst at the festival and made a lot of money.

"We got shoved out," he said. "Nobody got paid. It was a volunteer thing. Service clubs made money. I take part in Dexter Days where they have Lions, Kiwanis, and other local vendors."

Kole said the chamber ran a poll and 70% said they wouldn't come to the festival. He said 40% of the money goes to two people.

"We don't need that \$12,000," he said, noting the people on Main Street – chamber members – don't want it.

He said the festival brings in people from the outside and chamber members have to close their businesses that weekend.

Marcotte said the city has so many different activities that bring people to town, including all the CBC events, the car show, Music Lakeside, Winter Fest, and Booville.

He said the strawberry farms have gone away, but the lake hasn't dried up. There is a sense of community.

"The ones who pay the taxes are leaving that week end," Kole said.

"We have the Lions Club coming and free dental," Pokerwinski said. "And, this year we're bringing in entertainment, trying to get sponsors. Vendors were in place when we got here."

"I'm not blaming you guys," Voigt said. "I don't want to see it go away. But, how does it benefit the community?"

Bodnar said she has commercials starting the week before the festival and Belleville will be the City of the Week. She said Meijer has pulled out of other festivals, but it's coming back to Belleville.

"But, how does that help the community?" Voigt persisted.

Bodnar said the festival gives free booths to store owners in front of their stores, but some don't want them.

Therese Antoinelli of Moving the Mitten said to Pokerwinski that she's never seen her and Pokerwinski said she left information with her employees.

Kole said a person had to staff the booth all weekend or he was charged.

Bates suggested they have a meeting with the people on Main Street to see what they think.

"Do you post when you meet?" Miller asked and Pokerwinski said it is the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Later it was pointed out by Antoinelli that the next meeting actually is Thursday, March 26, at 6 p.m. at Victory Station.

"It's still not benefitting the community," Voigt said. "How can we make it a vital event again?"

Miller said she and others do enjoy the parade and the car show.

Voigt recalled the good times at the festival with a chicken dinner and gambling at St. Anthony, and how shocked he was to see nuns gambling.

"I even liked the beer tent," he said. "It

(continued on page 9)



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City of Belleville

(continued from page 8)

was a giant class reunion. Now, I don't see the benefit."

"We didn't know St. Anthony was pulling out," Pokerwinski said. "Father John did it himself. I went and talked with him. He's not interested in anything going on in town."

Becky Hasen said, "I think Strawberry Festival needs to go away. I went to the meetings and they say they don't hear anything negative about the festival."

"The president of Strawberry Festival is the representative from the city on the festival committee," she said.

Councilman Fielder, president of the festival, said Kim Tindall was the city representative and she left. Since then he has been the only person there from the city so he brings back the information.

"Outside people are using our community for four days," Kole said.

Voigt said when he was running for council last fall he talked to 100 people in town and they had lots to say about the festival.

"I know, I can leave town or sit on my porch with a shotgun," Voigt said. "How does this help the community?"

"I try to promote Belleville in the radio stations," Bodnar said. "Meijer is still willing to support the Strawberry Festival and you can't force businesses to have a booth."

"Window salesmen? All this junk. It's actually working against it," Voigt said of promoting the city.

Bodnar said she lives in Allen Park and she brings in a lot of people to Belleville from Rochester and Sterling Heights.

Bill Wolters, president of the CBC, said the chamber used funds from past festivals to buy an empty building and turn it into offices. And, the chamber gave \$10,000 and then \$5,000 to the Educational Foundation.

"You throw a huge festival ... and at the end of the day it has become the carnival," Antoinelli said. "Our town is not reaping any of those benefits."

Mayor Conley said this has been talked about before.

"This wasn't an attack on you personally," she said to Bodnar and Pokerwinski.

She said the city wants an event that brings people "because we're different, because we're special and they will want to come back."

Mayor Conley said the festival had something unique in the past and now there is nothing. She said Belleville competes against Liberty Fest in Canton on Father's Day week end.

"I will go to Plymouth, to the Ann Arbor Art Fair," she said, noting people travel to see the unique items. "We're hearing from business owners who don't like it. Either we should not have it or have something interesting and unique."

"Should be stop accepting money?" Bodnar asked.

Pokerwinski said they could rename it and bring in something else.

"I'm not saying we should cancel it this year," Voigt said. "Strawberry Festival has done a lot for this community and at the

present time it's not doing anything. It's cheaper to write a check to the CBC for \$3,500. The chamber doesn't care if it gets the money from the festival."

The council voted unanimously to refer the festival policy to interim city manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz for a recommendation.

"It's late in the game this year," said Fielder.

City Manager Kobylarz said it is a good idea for her to sit down with the Strawberry Festival organization and she already had planned to attend the chamber event the next day.

"Maybe I'll bring back a revised policy, but it has to happen quickly," she said.

Belleville City Council pays Kollmeyer \$14,735 as final payout

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Belleville City Council approved payment of \$14,735 in final payment to City Manager Diana Kollmeyer after her retirement on Feb. 3.

At its regular meeting on Feb. 18, the council approved \$6,235.94 in vacation pay, \$392.28 in personal time, \$7,845.60 in sick time, and \$261 in pay for the one day she worked after retirement.

The payout was to be made on Feb. 20. Changes could not be made to that payroll after 2 p.m. Feb. 18, so the payout was on its way before the council approved it at its 7:30 p.m. meeting on Feb. 18.

Kollmeyer worked for the city from June 1, 1998 until Feb. 3, 2020.

When a member of the audience asked if that wasn't an excessive payout, Mayor Kerreen Conley said the next city manager contract will have caps.

The new interim city manager is Tracey Schultz Kobylarz, who has agreed to serve for six months.

In other business at the one-hour-and-33-minute Feb. 18 meeting, the council:

- Voted unanimously to approve David Robinson as the new, part-time police chief, subject to a level 4 background check through Fifer, a transcript of his educational degrees, and signing of the contract. It was not known how soon he could be on the job. The former police chief, Hal Berriman, retired Jan. 31. Twelve finalists for the position were interviewed by a committee of law enforcement officials and three certified by the Civil Service Commission.

On Feb. 17 the city council interviewed the three selected;

- Approved in one motion all the activities requested on city property by the Central Business Community: Flop E. Bunny on April 11 at Victory Park, Farmer's Market on Mondays in June through September, Taste of Belleville on Aug. 20 on High Street after the Bridge Walk, Harvest Fest Market on Oct. 10 on the Fourth Street Square, Monster Mutt Walk on Oct. 17 on the Fourth Street Square and Halloween on Oct. 30 on the Fourth Street Square; and

- Heard Councilman Tom Fielder express frustration over signing checks to repair city hall. City Hall has been on the Council Follow-Up List since Dec. 15, 2014, and an evaluation and appraisal completed. Then nothing. He said he would like the council to look into selling the property the city has at Five Points to a commercial venture and have the city offices go elsewhere. City Manager Kobylarz said she can very easily find out how much city hall is costing. Councilman Ken Voigt said the police chief's office is falling in and the squad room upstairs is in shockingly bad shape. Fire Chief Brian Loranger said since there is no mortgage on the property, they should use the equity in it to fix it or they can sell it. Kobylarz said any time the council talks about buying or selling real estate they should do it in closed session with an attorney. "Let me reach out to legal counsel first," Kobylarz said, adding they could have a town hall meeting to find out what people think about it.

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Independent photos by Rosemary K. Oztman
Van Buren Township Trustee Sherry Frazier, left, presents a proclamation to the League of Women Voters marking the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment on women's suffrage and the 100th anniversary of the formation of the League of Women Voters. This was at the Feb. 18 regular meeting of the VBT Board of Trustees. From left are Northwestern Wayne County LWV President Paula Bowman, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Manny Lavin, Elaine Guterrez, Marjorie Lynn, and Barbara Rogalle Miller. Trustee Frazier also is a member of the LWV. Bowman said to remember, "You get more power at the ballot box than complaining on social media."



Lisa Lothringer, deputy executive director of the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, presents plaques she accepted to the township and the VBT Civic Fund for the 2020 Outstanding Park Design award from mParks for the Quirk Park Splash Pad. This was at the Feb. 18 meeting of the VBT Board of Trustees. Supervisor Kevin McNamara said he had three plaques made so one can go to the Civic Fund, one to the DDA, and one to the township. VBT Treasurer Sharry Budd said the Civic Fund, of which she is a member, was glad to chip in.



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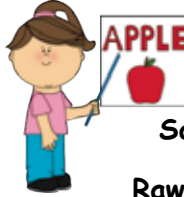
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University of Minnesota event features Sumpter native Jamarrea Bishop

Jamarrea Bishop, who was born and raised in Sumpter Township, has been honored by being featured in an event at the University of Minnesota.

Bishop, son of Sheena Barnes and the late Freddie Bishop of Inkster, is a father, self-taught artist, and organic intellectual.

A picture of Bishop, who was one of the guest speakers at the Oct. 17-19 event at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, is on the cover and within a program book for the "Black in the Middle: Inaugural Black Midwest Symposium" with the following introduction:

"Drawing from the urban and rural landscapes of Southeast Michigan, he uses found and natural materials to construct architectural models. The miniature structures he creates are speculative and utopian. They represent eco-environments,



Jamarrea Bishop

cultural buildings, and living spaces imagined for black liberation, collectivity, thought and education in the real and imaginary past, present, and future. His work aims to transform how we imagine knowing and being in the world."

Bishop recently exhibited his artworks in the Belleville Council for the Arts' Community Art Show at the Belleville Yacht Club.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, March 2 – Van Buren Township work/study meeting, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 3 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 6 p.m.
- Monday, March 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.
- Tuesday, March 10 – Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m., new library
- Wednesday, March 11 – VBT Local Development Financing Authority meets at 2 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 12 – Keystone Academy School Board at 6 p.m.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Feb. 27** – Southwestern Wayne County Democratic Club's February membership meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds on Quirk Road north of the I-94 North Service Drive. 2020 is here are we are ready to organize! Eric R. Sabree, Wayne County Treasurer, and staff will be available to discuss taxpayer assistance and resources available; additional speakers are expected. Save the date: March 21 for the endorsement convention in Lansing.

• **Friday, Feb. 28** – State Rep. Joe Bellino invites constituents to meet with him for coffee from 1 to 2 p.m. at Tim Hortons, 404 S. Monroe St. in Monroe and from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Rd. Rep. Bellino represents Sumpter Township in Lansing. Can't make it? Call his office at (517) 373-1530 or JosephBellino@house.mi.gov

• **Saturday, Feb. 29** – Join the Book Brigade at noon to move the last of the books from the old Fred C. Fischer Library to the new Belleville Area District Library next door. The new library is expected to be open after the last book is moved over, if it gets its certificate of occupancy from the city.

• **Saturday, Feb. 29** – Leap into Lionism at the Ted Scott Campus of Wayne County Community College, 9555 Haggerty Rd., 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Lions Club information and kids' activities. Learn about what your Belleville Area Lions are doing and tell us how we may bring more service to our community.

• **Saturday, Feb. 29** – Paint Party at 6:30 p.m. at Bethany Bible Church, \$25. Create your own artwork by following easy step-by-step instructions. Register at bethanybiblechurch.com.

• **Sunday, March 1** – Sunday Music from 2 to 5 p.m. at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Rd. This week it's Waco Band.

• **Sunday, March 1** – Bugles Across America is at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial at Horizon Park in Belleville. In a brief ceremony, members of the military, alive and dead, are honored. "Taps" is played and Geof Bush and Lori Day sing the National Anthem.

• **Tuesday, March 3** – Belleville Area Lions Club invites you to join them in working on a health expo set for April 4. Meeting at the Ted Scott Campus of Wayne County Community College from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

• **Wednesday, March 4** – Join the Belleville Area Council for the Arts for a free bus ride to see the 3 p.m. performance of "Roadsigns" by Jeff Daniels at the Purple Rose Theater in Chelsea. The bus leaves at 1:15 p.m. from Van Buren Township Hall. Vouchers for tickets are \$35 at Garden Fantasy on Main Street and the Van Buren Township Hall.

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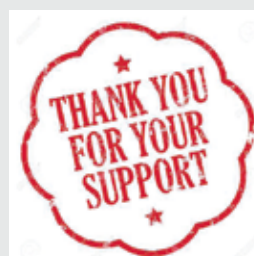
My Name is Randy York and I am a Boy Scout in Troop 231 working on my Eagle Project. I am having a Bike Safety Day on May 23rd 2020. In preparation I am having a bottle drive to help raise funds for raffle baskets and other items needed to make the day successful.

You can see either Don LaPorte 734-740-0812

or email me at rjyork2004@gmail.com

or text 734-368-5153 for pickup of any bottles you wish to donate.

Collection
February 3rd
thru
March 30th



Micaya Cannon starts college fund with essay contest winnings

Micaya Cannon, 13, of the City of Belleville has started a new account in the bank for her college education with her \$1,200 winnings from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen essay contest.

She was finalist at McBride Middle School, where she is an eighth grader. Then she won first place in the VFW 4434 contest at the Belleville Post, which brought her \$200 in cash and a plaque. Then she won the VFW District 4 contest which brought her \$500 and a plaque, and then the state contest at the Raddison in Kalamazoo, which brought her \$500, a plaque, and a jacket.

She won ninth place in the state. There

had been 4,000 entries.

The VFW has this annual nationwide program that provides the opportunity for students in grades 6-8 to compete in the Patriot's Pen essay contest which begins on the local VFW Post level. They also have a Voice of Democracy essay contest for high school students.

Winners are selected from each local Post to participate in a district level competition with the winner advancing to the department or state level. The end result is the state level winners receive a free trip to Washington D.C. to compete for more than \$50,000 in awards, with the national winner receiving a check for \$5,000.

What Makes America Great

By Micaya Cannon
McBride Middle School

If you walk up to somebody and ask them, "What makes America Great?", they might reply with sports, our beautiful geography, the food, or any other stereotypical American piece of culture. Personally, I believe the reasons America is great is because of the ideals our nation was founded upon, the opportunities our people have, and the freedom for our people.

It was July 2nd, 1776 and our Founding Fathers had all gathered together to sign the Declaration of Independence. Two days later it was ratified and sent to King George. We experienced a tyrannical and unfair government so it was time for us to step away. I think the same idea is still true today with our country. We still stand strong behind our beliefs and opinions. The amazing thing about America is that our Constitution and Bill of Rights protects our freedom to express those opinions and beliefs.

America is nicknamed "The Land of Opportunity". This is the perfect nickname because we give every citizen an equal

opportunity to achieve their dreams and excel to their full ability. This is amazing because it means I can do the same thing and have the same opportunities as people with more advantages. In other countries, their citizens do not have the same Constitutional protections and rights. This means they do not have these amazing opportunities. Here in America, part of our greatness is that we don't just have equality, we have equity. We provide everyone the opportunity to succeed. There are scholarships for education, welfare for disadvantaged people, and loans for entrepreneurs. I'm thankful that America is great and that we have these opportunities.

"... The land of the free and the home of the brave." These words from Francis Scott Key's anthem of our nation have become the cornerstone of America. For example, our first amendment gives us several freedoms to live by, including speech, religion, press, petition, and assembly. I am truly blessed to be living in a country where this exists, allowing us to adhere to our inalienable rights. Overall, America is an outstanding country. We are not perfect, but we are an always improving country based off amazing concepts, wonderful opportunities, and freedom for all. America is truly great.



Photo by Reg Ion

Micaya Cannon shows off her Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen award plaque and her bright red personalized state finalist jacket. The jacket has her name on it and states she is District 4 Winner in the 2019-20 contest. Micaya came in ninth in the state. From left, in back, are VFW 4434 members Pete Pitzen and Robert Krouse, and Micaya's mother and father, Cortney and Stephan Cannon. In front are Micaya, 13, and her sisters Victoria, 4, and Corissa, 12.

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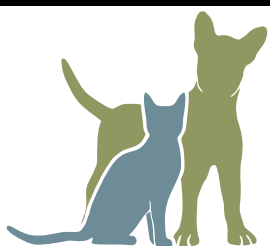
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ORPHAN OF THE WEEK GINGERBELLE



The question isn't who would want **Gingerbelle** but who wouldn't want **Gingerbelle**? She's a young tiger Tabby that's sweet, gentle, playful and lovable all the best traits you could want in a furry friend. **Gingerbelle** is really just an all around nice kitty that likes people, gets along fine with other kitties and may even accept a doggie friend. She does seem more laid-back and will probably do best in a calmer, quieter home environment. She's also a pretty, petite girl with a lovely blended tabby colored coat and large green eyes. **Gingerbelle** is already spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Come meet her today by calling **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** today at **734-461-9458** to make an appointment or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.



Belleville High School athletes recently signed with colleges for next year's seasons. From left are Brenden Deasfernandes (Iowa), Clifton Buchanon (Davenport), Jalen Williams (Saginaw Valley), Michael Jenkins Jr. (Saginaw Valley), Hunter Little (Michigan Tech), Jeffrey Price (Michigan Tech), Christopher Zaharie (Northwood), TyTrayon Lewis (Independence), Sherod Green (Independence), Ronald Jackson (Akron), Not Pictured: Darian Murray (Bowling Green preferred walk-on). Coach Crowell is standing in the background.



Mikayla Demyan, a senior at Belleville High School, recently signed with Schoolcraft College to play softball there next year.



Belleville High School student Blake Williams placed second in the Wrestling Individual Regional Tournament at the 160 pound weight class and qualified for the State Finals to be held at Ford Field March 6-7.

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HOURS:

MONDAY - FRIDAY

7:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

SATURDAYS

8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.



Ralph, Arlene Bird to celebrate 73rd wedding anniversary

Ralph and Arlene Bird of Belleville will celebrate their 73rd wedding anniversary on March 15, 2020. The couple was married March 15, 1947 at the Methodist Church parsonage in Flat Rock, MI.

The couple has four children: Ray (Susie) Bird of Chandler, AZ, Roger (Julie) Bird of Belleville, Pamela (Michael) Fleming of Belleville and Craig Bird of Ypsilanti.

They have six grandchildren: Carey (Doug) Blair, Ryan (Vanessa) Bird, Kate

Bird, Kimberlee Short, all in Michigan, and Angela and Christopher of Arizona. They also have eight great grandchildren.

Ralph is retired from Draw-Tite, Inc. as supervisor in Customer Service. Arlene is retired from Van Buren Schools and National School Bus Company as supervisor in the Transportation Department. They have been members of the First United Methodist Church of Belleville for more than 50 years.

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Huron Sportsman's Association

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, February 29, 2020

Doors open at 5:00 PM – Cards fly at 6:00 PM

Huron Sportsman's Club
19835 Sterling Street | New Boston, MI

\$20.00 entry fee per person – RSVP IS REQUIRED



Euchre Prizes

1st Place - \$300
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3rd Place - \$100

RSVP is required for this event

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Or email Huronsportsmans@gmail.com
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Glenn Silvenis, right, accepts an award from Magnus Sublett, regional owner of RE/MAX.

Glenn Silvenis among top RE/MAX producers in SE Michigan region

Glenn Silvenis of RE/MAX Crossroads ranked Number 3 overall in the RE/MAX Southeastern Michigan Region for total transaction sides closed in 2019 and Number 3 for total closed volume in 2019.

This is the 14th year that Silvenis has been recognized for his performance and also the amount of annual transactions closed.

“Glenn Silvenis’ tireless dedication to helping members of our community sell or find the right home has allowed him to achieve this high honor,” said Magnus Sublett, regional owner. “Glenn Silvenis is one of a select few RE/MAX agents across the country to be given many awards and we’re extremely proud that he is a member of our organization.”

Silvenis has been working in the real estate industry for more than 25 years and has extensive experience in residential, commercial, vacant land, business

opportunities and development properties. Among his achievements, he has earned Chairman’s Club Awards, RE/MAX Hall of Fame Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

In addition to excelling in the real estate industry, Silvenis actively supports the community by participating in The Belleville Rotary, Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, and supporting many local organizations.

Silvenis is broker/owner of RE/MAX Crossroads which is a full-service real estate brokerage specializing in residential, commercial, vacant land, business opportunities and development properties. RE/MAX Crossroads is a supporter of Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, Susan G. Komen, and other charities. The office is at 418 Main St., Belleville. For more information, visit Mrsold.com or call (734) 740-3000.

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Belleville Area Lions Club Presents:

Leap into Lionism!

Where: Wayne County Community College

Ted Scott Campus

9555 Haggerty Road

When: February 29

Time: 11a-3p

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AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE is hereby given that on March 14, 2020 at 12:00 p.m., Full House Self Storage at 7886 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 is holding a public auction. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, misc.

Q-903, Mary Buckner; P-758 & O-706, Crit E. Smith; O-715 & S-962, Terry Booth; T-981, Chandler Cuts and Snow LLC; Q-905, Tasha Davis; E-216 & M-574, Katrina Bryant; O-703, Ralph Rice; I-403, Kimberly Boldin; K-657, Shunya Cleveland; I-527, Nicole Borowski; G-456, Henri S. Crawford; I-404, Amy L. Sexsmith; T-966, Michael Vernatt; L-513, Vicky Martin; O-711, Gerald Merriweather; S-946, Dawn Bird; L-530, Frank Murphy; Q-912, Sofroja Wooden; M-564, John C. Johnston

Publish: February 27, 2020, March 5, 2019

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SUMMER RENTAL WANTED on the lake, if possible. Five months starting in June. Small is fine, close to town. Call (772) 263-1142 03/05

More Letters

What qualifies Armatis for high-end salary?

To the editor and the people of Sumpter Township:

I want to show my appreciation to you all, and also extend a very big thank you to the Belleville *Independent* for reporting what is right. Rosemary and her team show a lot of bravery and make many sacrifices. My priority is to cut costs in order to save more than one million dollars. I will apply for a government grant or loan to take care of the seniors, refurbish the fire department, and prevent the outflow of young adults. The grant will be used to build an apartment complex with a cafeteria, gymnasium, and event hall. Another grant can be used for

updating the equipment and to regularize employment for our fire department.

Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis was appointed by John Morgan. She is making six figures (\$106,000+), while fire fighters, volunteering their lives to save people, are making salaries between less than one thousand dollars, and ten thousand dollars per year.

As a taxpayer in Sumpter Township, I have the right to know what Karen's highest level of education is and where she received her degree in order to qualify her for such a high-end salary. These small examples of waste and abuse are why it will be so easy to save Sumpter Township over a million dollars in the first year.

I depend on you all to help me bring my promises to life. I would love for every one of you to come out and vote in person, especially the seniors. Don't be afraid. I will be making arrangements for transportation directly to the polls (details still to come). I believe I am the only person with the capabilities to fix the problems and run the township as a business. I will reward the good and get rid of the bad. I hold no grudges over what has happened to me in the past. I will do the right thing and bring Sumpter Township forward for a better tomorrow.

Thank you,
Nelson S. Po

Any comments are appreciated and you can send me a note here: P.O. Box 2293, Belleville, MI 48112; or NelsonPo8822@gmail.com.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

School Board hears report on Chromebook use at BHS, McBride

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent editor

On Monday, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education listened to an hour-long report on the ways its Digital Leader Corps is experimenting with teaching lessons using Chromebooks at Belleville High School and McBride Middle School.

Curriculum Director Jeff Moore said when it was official that each student would get a Chromebook at BHS and McBride, it was determined that the teachers have to know how to use them.

"If teachers get computers for classrooms and don't know how to use them, they gather dust," Director Moore said.

He said a year and a half ago they put together 18 teachers – 10 at BHS and eight at McBride – to develop strong, structural practices.

"We're in year two of our journey," he said of the three-year project.

Susan Duda Osborne, a BHS teacher and member of the Digital Leader Corps, gave a report of her work at the high school and how enthusiastic the students are when using their Chromebooks for interesting projects.

She said they are inviting new members for the DLC and there will be professional development for them in March, April, and May.

Andrew Mills, teacher at McBride, gave a report on work at his school. He said when a project is especially successful, it spreads like wildfire through the staff and students.

Board President Amy Pearce said some staff members are reluctant to use all the capabilities available, noting her student has a teacher that sends everything home on paper.

Mills said the DLC is working on this.

School Supt. Pete Kudlak said the teachers have to accept that the kids are better at it, referring to computers.

Trustee Calvin Hawkins said he likes the children pushing the curriculum for their own learning.

McBride Principal John Leroy said there are growing pains.

Mills said there is massive growth in all of the DLC members.

Trustee Simone Pinter said she would like to have a class on use of the Chromebook for parents, the public, and substitute teachers because many "haven't a clue."

Duda Osborne said they can learn how but it doesn't mean they'll use it.

Trustee Pinter said when she, as a board member, got her tablet, "I erased everything." She said she took it back to the school and the IT person couldn't believe she erased it all.

"You can't keep pushing the buttons," she said.

Mills said they had some sessions on the computers at the beginning of the school year, but some teachers said that was a busy time of year for them and they would have liked the lessons at the end of the school

year so they can practice over the summer. They are looking into that, he said.

In other business at the one-hour-and-36-minute meeting, the board:

- Heard a presentation by Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun on hard caps (the maximum the district would pay for insurance as set by the state) and the ramifications on the different bargaining units. Although information in the board packet said this will be brought to a vote at the next meeting, it probably will be delayed because Director Madyun said he wants to talk to those involved before the board votes. "If we don't vote to go hardcap and it's not negotiated into contracts by July 1, it goes into hardcap by default," Madyun said, referring to state law. In charts, he showed that employee cost for insurance would not change between the current 80/20 VBEA plan, the VBASA, VBAES, and Food Service plans, and the hardcap. If the VBEST contract changed it could negotiate multiple plans like other groups, save the district money, and make it easier for the district to budget, he said;

- Approved the resignation of Charollette Buck-Jackson from McBride Middle School after seven years of service as of March 2 for a job opportunity. Her job has been posted, the district has seven applicants for her position so far, and they are starting to interview;

- Approved the resignation of Patricia Wauford as a bus driver after nine years of service as of March 1 for relocation; and the hiring of Ann Daugherty as a food service worker at Owen Intermediate School as of Feb. 11;

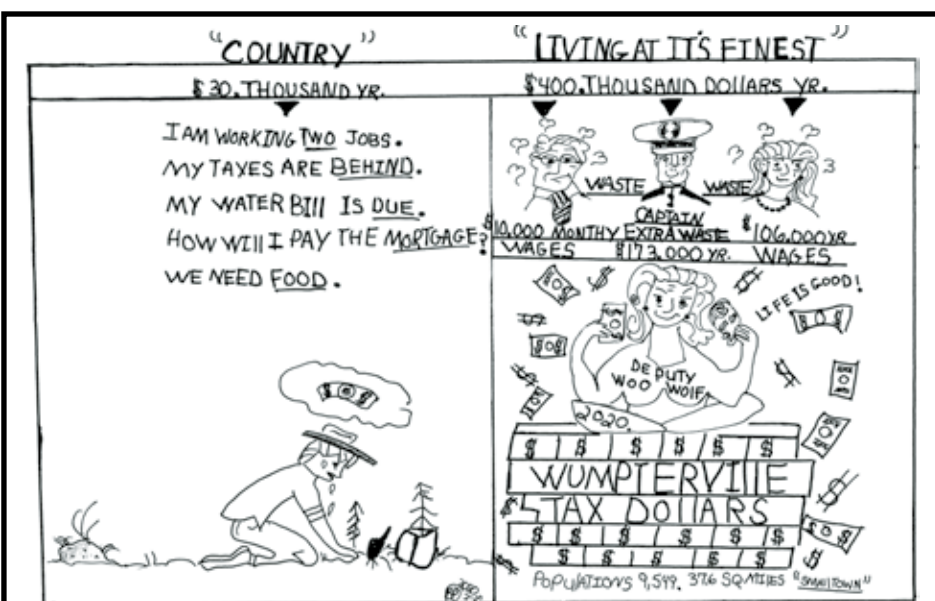
- Heard Director Moore say he met with University of Michigan representatives last week and they will offer one week of summer school in math for incoming fifth graders and one week of ELA for current seventh graders. Also, he is investigating the Michigan Career Quest in Oakland County, where students take a trip to see workers in IT, construction, and other professions as less-traditional career pathways. He said he hopes to have something like that for students here next year;

- Heard Finance Director Sara Cortese announce that the bonds approved by voters will be sold the next day and the district will get the \$13 million all at once. She said there is another investment firm that will bring more interest and she will bring a resolution to the board at the next meeting to add that investment firm to the district's approved list of investments. She also said the Food budget is \$4,500 higher than it should be according to the state and the district needs to spend more money, so they will get a few dishwashers and will get more ideas from a webinar;

- Heard Special Services Director Karen Johnston report that the district's architect met with about a dozen staff members at

(continued on page 18)

Cartoon to the Editor



School Board

(continued from page 17)

Haggerty School last week to hear what they would like in the new early childhood development center;

- Heard the BHS student representatives on the board tell that last week was Week of Kindness at BHS and it was a big success. This week is Black History Week, with Monday being Black is Beautiful Day, followed by days featuring wearing dashikis, black excellence, culture and generation, followed by an assembly on Friday. Last year snow closed the school and ruined their week and they are hoping it doesn't happen this year;

- Heard Supt. Kudlak report the upcoming U.S. Census is important to schools because some of the district's money is tied to demographics. He said the dance team went to Orlando on Feb. 20 and made it to the second round, falling short by just over one point. It was noted a Black History Celebration is set for 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, at McBride; and

- Heard President Pearce announce the FIRST Robotics competition is coming back to BHS March 12-14, with competition on March 13 and 14. Kudlak said there is no school on March 13.

**One Call Does It All . . .
... At the Independent
699-9020**



CITY OF BELLEVILLE Special City Council Meeting Minutes Monday, February 10, 2020

A special called meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order by Mayor Conley at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Conley	Present
Council Member Bates	Present
Council Member Fielder	Present
Mayor Pro Marcotte	Present
Council Member Voigt	Present

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Consider Interim City Manager Appointment

Motion by Voigt, Second by Bates to approve Resolution No. 20-017 recommending that the City of Belleville enter into a 6-month interim city manager agreement with Tracey Schultz Kobylarz for \$80,000 annual compensation contingent upon successful completion of a background check. City Attorney Steve Hitchcock will provide the agreement and Fifer Investigations will perform a Level IV background check at a cost of \$450.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Consider Police Chief Appointment

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve Resolution No. 20-018 to call a special meeting for February 17, 2020 at 6 p.m. for the purpose of interviewing the following 3 candidates: Kevin Bias, David Egeler and David Robinson. Alternate meeting date is February 20, 2020 at 6 p.m.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bates, Second by Voigt to adjourn meeting at 6:30 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf

City Clerk

Approved: February 18, 2020

Published: February 27, 2020

Chamber of Commerce announces nominees for awards

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce has announced its nominees for chamber awards.

This year, it had 39 unique names for nomination, and had to cut the field to four per category, said Interim CEO Mike Kole. He said they had well over 80 total voters so they first cut it down by those that had multiple nominations.

Nominees are:

Small Business of the Year

- A Design Line Embroidery
- Garden Fantasy on Main
- Egan's Pub
- Edward Jones Financial

Large Business of the Year

- Servis Group
- Atchinson Ford
- Moving the Mitten
- Davenport Brothers

Community Service Award

Ted Kuckelman

- Mark Laginess
- Ashley Shukait
- Deborah Hogan
- Pastor Nathaniel Oregon

Chamber Member of the Year

- BYC
- Diedre Rivera-Creal
- Susan Richardson
- VFW Post 4434

As of Monday, Kole said 90 members had

Library plans soft opening after Book Brigade on Saturday

The Belleville Area District Library has planned its Book Brigade to ceremoniously move the last few books from the old Fred C. Fischer Library to the new Belleville Area District Library at noon on Saturday, Feb. 29.

Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said the plan was to open the new library to the public

voted and 230 community members.

"We are using the community-member votes to break any ties, and will be giving away a "People's Choice" award to the top vote-getter from them. The awards will be announced at the annual awards banquet on March 21.

For more information see: info@bellevilleareachamber.org or call (734) 697-7151.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 18, 2020

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller, and Trustee White. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Planning and Economic Development Director Powers, Public Services Director Best, DDA Director Ireland and Deputy Director Lothringer, Recreation Director Wright, Communication Specialist Albrecht and an audience of twelve (12).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Frazier moved, White seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Miller moved, Budd seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes of February 3, 2020, Board Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2020, Prepaid List of February 6, 2020, Prepaid List of February 13, 2020, Voucher List of February 18, 2020, Approval of the re-appointments of Joe Baskin and Victor DeLibera to the Downtown Development Authority with terms to expire March 9, 2024, Approval of the appointment of John Herman to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to expire December 1, 2022, Approval of Resolution 2020-05: Corrective Action Plan]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / A N N O U N C E M E N T S / P R E S E N T A T I O N S :

1. Proclamation celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage presented to the League of Women Voters.

2. mParks 2020 Outstanding Park Design Award for the Quirk Park Splash Pad presented to the Civic Fund, Van Buren Township and the Downtown Development Authority.

The following announcements were made: Open registration for Summer Day Camps begins March 2, 2020 with registration for the first session (June 15-July 10) ending on May 15, 2020, registration for the second session

(July 13-August 7) ending June 26 or until full. The program runs from 10 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for more information contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 734-699-8926; the Recreation Department is offering an open craft night on Friday, February 28, 2020 from 5 p.m.-8 p.m., bring your own tools/supplies, \$2.00 per person includes pizza, register at least one day in advance, children must be accompanied by an adult; Parks and Recreation is hosting a fairy play dough or Jar of Dinosaurs Kids Crafty Saturday on March 14, 2020 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. for children grades k-5 at the cost of \$5.00 per child, per craft and; Youth recreation gymnastics will have a 9-week session from March 7th to May 16, 2020 fees vary by class; Beginners hustle/line dance begins Wednesday February 26 from 7-8 p.m. Residents \$40, non-residents \$55, drop-ins per session residents \$6.00 and non-residents \$8.00; the Parks and Recreation "Read & Upload" event runs during the month of March. Everyone is invited to grab a book and reboot your senses by reading in nature at one of our Van Buren Township parts. Snap a pic of you reading in one of our parks and send it to jzaenglein@vanburen-mi.org for us to upload it to our Facebook page; the Belleville Area Museum will be hosting Mr. Brown Goes to Washington February 20, 2020 from 6-8 p.m. featuring stories and photos from Douglas Brown's time in D.C.; the event is free for members and \$5 for non-members, pizza, salad and pop will be served at 5:30 p.m.; the September Days Senior Center will be having a "Drive Away the Winter Blues Gold Clinic" on Thursdays at 1 p.m. starting March 5. This 4-week class will provide information as well as hands on training indoor and out. Sign up at the Senior Center; the September Days Senior Center will be having an Income Tax Preparation class on Wednesday February 19 and 26th, 2020. Call 734-284-6999 to make an appointment for tax preparation services; as a result of the no reason absentee ballot initiative and the Clerk's Office initiative to increase absentee voter numbers the overall absentee voter numbers have increased by over 100 percent and are expected to grow to a minimum of 8000 by the November Presidential Election; and winter tax bills due by the end of the month, at the latest March 2nd, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Miller moved, White seconded to the professional services agreement with PEA Inc. for the segment of the Iron Belle Trail through Van Buren Township and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Motion Carried. The agreement is for services to assist with a topographic survey, geotechnical investigation, final easement documents (if needed), permits, and bidding documents. The segment of the trail is from Edgemont to Martinsville.

White moved, Martin seconded to approve the professional services agreement with PEA Inc. for the segment of the Iron Belle Trail through the east end of Van Buren Township and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Motion Carried. The segment of trail is the south side of Huron River Dr. between Edison Lake Road and Haggerty Road and includes a railroad crossing. The agreement is for services in developing preliminary plans, topographic survey, obtain rail crossing permit, construction drawings and meetings.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA

ITEMS: Comments included: A request to the Board to consider appointing a cultural committee/commission to accommodate all cultural activities and to study the best use of the museum or other real estate owned by the Township to address the need, the Equal Rights Amendment and an introduction by a candidate running for State Representative.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA

ITEMS: Treasurer Budd presented opinions by an MTA article, Michigan Department of Treasurers and the Township attorney indicating donation funds can be received by the Township and earmarked for a specific purpose such as an employee holiday party.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved, Martin seconded to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Published: February 27, 2020

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



All Out Estate Sale Service, LLC can help you organize, record, and put together a plan of success when it comes to your estate sale. Jason and Sandra Kosa have a combined 20 years of experience in the industry serving the Downriver community and all of Southeast Michigan. The company is locally run out of nearby Garden City and specializes in estate sales, tag sales, clean outs and more. They also

have a loyal following which frequents their sales. Be sure to see their business card ad in today's paper. Visit www.alloutstatesaleservices.com and call (313) 364-9638.

The Huron Sportsman's Association of New Boston is holding a Euchre Tournament this Saturday, Feb. 29, at its location at 19835 Sterling St., just north of East Huron River Drive. The cost is \$20 per entry fee per person and RSVP is required. Euchre prizes are \$300 for first place, \$200 for second, \$100 for third place, and a cash bar. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with the event starting at 6 p.m. Call Marcy Lyp at (734) 765-9821 or John Lyp

at (734) 765-9822 to sign up. See their ad in today's paper. You can also email them at huronsportsmans@gmail.com. The Huron Sportsman's Association is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2020. The HSA is a group of men and women who share the passion of hunting, fishing, and everything else that has to do with the outdoors. They proudly support the community with donations to the local Goodfellows, Huron Township Rotary, and Little League. The organization also produces the popular Tracks Magazine for the area elementary schools, and sends youth to annual week-long camps. They also provide hunter safety classes free of charge. Their steak fry fundraisers held every year are pretty good, too. Oh, and they also offer hall rental. Call (734) 753-9507. Congratulations HSA!

Congratulations are in order for Belleville High School wrestler Blake Williams (41-6, 160 lbs.) for qualifying for the individual state wrestling finals coming up March 6-7 at Ford Field. Williams placed second at last weekend's tournament in Saline.

Lonnie's Auto Repair at 5 Points is offering a Get-Ready-For-Spring Vehicle Inspection for just \$19.99 with their ad coupon in today's paper. They'll inspect your belts, hoses, fluids, etc. They're open

Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. See their ad in today's paper for other coupons, too. Call (734) 325-7065.

Kindergarten/Preschool Roundup in the Van Buren School District is coming up next month at Tyler Elementary on March 10, Savage and Rawsonville Elementary on March 11, and Edgemont Elementary on March 12. Session one is from 6 to 7 p.m., and session two is 7 to 8 p.m. at all three locations. To register call (734) 697-9123 or pre-enroll online at www.vanburenschools.net. See their ad in today's paper.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no cost to be in this column.

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is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**



City of Belleville Public Notice



NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020

TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Presidential Primary Election will be held in the City of Belleville on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for both Precincts 1 & 2 at the polling location:

St. Anthony's Church
409 W. Columbia Ave.

Polling location is accessible to voters with disabilities.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the residents in the City of Belleville will choose to vote among the following ballots:

DEMOCRATIC BALLOT – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND BALLOT PROPOSAL

REPUBLICAN BALLOT – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND BALLOT PROPOSAL

NO PARTY DECLARATION BALLOT (Proposal only) RENEWAL OF WAYNE COUNTY ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY MILLAGE (Request for renewal of the 0.2 mill on all taxable property located within the county for a period of 10 years from 2022 through 2031.)

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the City of Belleville Clerk's Office, 6 Main Street, Belleville, Michigan 48111, by contacting the Clerk's office at (734) 697-9323 ext. 7010, or by visiting the City's website: www.belleville.mi.us where sample ballots may be viewed.

Sherri Scharf,
City Clerk

Publish: February 27, 2020

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP 2020 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, on the following dates:

March 3rd, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
(Organizational Meeting)

No Appeals Heard at this Meeting

March 9th, Monday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 11th, Wednesday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

March 12th, Thursday
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

REVIEW IN PERSON IS BY APPOINTMENT

Taxpayers/Property Owners may appeal by making an appointment to appear before the Board of Review OR by letter appeal (personal appearance is not required).

Letters of appeal must be received on or before MARCH 11, 2020.

Appointments to appeal in person may be scheduled by calling the Assessing Office at 734-699-8946 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by MARCH 10, 2020.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	50%	1.0000
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: Thursday, February 20, 2020
Thursday, February 27, 2020
Thursday, March 5, 2020

Metroparks seeks public input on proposed grants for Lower Huron

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is seeking public input on three projects to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Recreation Grants program for improvements within Lower Huron Metropark.

Lower Huron Metropark is one of 13 Metroparks owned and managed by HCMA. It is a 1,256-acre park located in southwest Wayne County. These projects are three of four grant projects HCMA will submit to the MDNR and all four will help realize several goals throughout the park system identified in the park Master Plans adopted by HCMA Board of Commissioners in 2016.

The public is invited to review the conceptual site plans, posted on the Metroparks website at <http://www.metroparks.com/about-us/planning-department/> and input and comments on all projects will be accepted via email to Jay Bibby at Jason.Bibby@metroparks.com from Feb. 24 through March 6, 2020.

A project display will also be posted for a two-week public review period at the Lower Huron park office at 40151 E. Huron River Dr. and Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Dept. at 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township.

If awarded these grant funds, the following projects would be completed within Lower Huron Metropark.

1. The development of an off-leash dog area at the Tawata Trace Trail area. Nestled within a bend of the Huron River, the off-leash dog area would re-activate the location of the former par 3 golf course using universal design principles and include:

- accessible walkways and parking including pathways extending into each dog playfield

- landscaping improvements including a 0.4 acre no-mow zone
- demolition of old golf building and surrounds
- accessible moveable restroom
- four new benches with wheelchair companion sitting spaces
- dual drinking fountain for people and dogs
- new trash cans and dog waste stations
- separate fields for large and small dogs
- fully accessible bullpen area

2. Campground improvements at Walnut Grove Campground. The park is one of two Metroparks with a public campground. Situated near Tulip Tree Picnic Area, it provides easy access to picnicking, fishing and the popular water facility – Turtle Cove. Improvements would include:

- developing six new camping sites
- developing seven ADA camping sites with new concrete pads
- water and electric hookups to all campsites
- 38 new accessible picnic tables throughout the campground
- three new fire pits and proposed firewood storage unit
- landscaping improvements including a 2.7 acre no mow zone and 50 native tree plantings
- wi-fi
- two drinking fountain/water bottle filling stations
- playground improvements including two new ADA harness swings
- parking lot improvements including pavement removal of excess parking areas

3. Construction of a 0.5 mile Iron Belle Trail segment. The Iron Belle Trail is a state-designated trail with both a hiking and biking arm reaching from Belle Isle in Detroit to

Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula. Known as Michigan's showcase trail, it utilizes many of the state's existing hike-bike paths, bike lanes, and biking routes and other planned trail segments.

The proposed project involves constructing a 10-foot-wide universal accessible asphalt trail segment that re-aligns the Iron Belle Trail

at the north end of Lower Huron to connect with a future segment west to Belleville, Ypsilanti, and Ann Arbor. The project is the result of an ongoing collaboration with other communities and organizations dedicated to implementing the regional Border-to-Border Trail system located in nearby Washtenaw County.



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE Notice of Adoption Ordinance No. 20-001

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE UTILITIES ORDINANCE TO ADD ILLICIT DISCHARGE TO THE CITY UTILITIES ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 90, BY ADDING TO ARTICLE III STORM SEWERS, DIVISION 3, ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND CONNECTION STORMWATER CONTROL.

THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, HEREBY ORDAINS:

ARTICLE III. STORM SEWERS

DIVISION 3 – ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND CONNECTION STORMWATER CONTROL

GENERALLY

Sec. 90-349. - Definitions

Sec. 90-350. - Purpose

ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 90-351. - Applicability

Sec. 90-352. - Enforcement, responsibility for administration

Sec. 90-353. - Minimum standards

Sec. 90-354. - Discharge prohibitions

Sec. 90-355. - Suspension of storm sewer system access

Sec. 90-356. - Industrial or construction activity discharges

Sec. 90-357. - Monitoring of discharges

Sec. 90-358. - Requirement to prevent, control, and reduce stormwater pollutants by the use of best management practices

Sec. 90-359. - Watercourse protection

Sec. 90-360. - Notification of release or discharge

ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 90-361. - Notice of violation

Sec. 90-362. - Appeal of notice of violation

Sec. 90-363. - Enforcement measures after appeal

Sec. 90-364. - Cost of abatement of the violation

Sec. 90-365. - Injunctive relief

Sec. 90-366. - Compensatory action

Sec. 90-367. - Violations deemed a public nuisance

Sec. 90-368. - Criminal prosecution

Sec. 90-369. – Remedies not exclusive

Ordinance No. 20-001 was adopted by the Belleville City Council on February 18, 2020 and will become effective on March 9, 2020. A complete and true copy of Ordinance No. 20-001 is available for inspection and may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111.

Sherri Scharf
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: February 27, 2020



City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville PUBLIC NOTICE MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING



The City of Belleville Board of Review will meet on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020

Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3rd. A second meeting will be on Tuesday March 10th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

MEETINGS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Please call (734) 697-9323 ext. 7014 or ext. 7015 to set up an appointment.

The meetings will be held in the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street, Belleville. The purpose will be to review the assessment roll and hear any objections. Resident and non-resident taxpayers are permitted to file protests in writing without personal appearance; letters must be received by March 10, 2019.

Sherri Scharf,
City Clerk/Treasurer
Publish: February 20, 2020
February 27, 2020
March 5, 2020

VBT

(continued from page 3)

of Review with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2020. She fills the unexpired term of the late Loretta Speaks. Young had served on the Board of Review in the past;

- Approved the supervisor's appointment of Patricia Tumas to the Endowment Committee with a term to expire Jan. 15, 2022;

- Approved the supervisor's appointment of Eileen Parent to the Water and Sewer

Commission with a term to expire June 1, 2020. This also fills the unexpired term of the late Loretta Speaks;

- Heard Trustee Paul White say the \$101.90 for the employee Christmas lunch on the prepaid voucher list out of the supervisor's office is not proper since townships cannot legally spend public funds on employee lunches. Treasurer Budd said there were no township funds spent and that was reimbursed by donations from vendors. Trustee White asked if the township had a list of the donations and Budd said she

believed they did. "We cannot comingle donations," White insisted. "There is no proof of donations, no list," he said. The Jan. 3 prepaid voucher list was approved on a 5-1 vote with White voting no and McNamara absent;

- Passed the prepaid voucher list of Jan. 30 on a vote of 5-1 with White voting no and McNamara absent. White had this list taken off the consent agenda so it could be discussed. There was \$42.82 spent for party decorations. In response to a comment from White, Budd said, "We do not have a habit of spending wildly,";

- Passed the voucher list of Feb. 4 on a 5-1 vote with White voting no and McNamara absent. White had a question on the \$2,667 spent for the interior stonework on the fronts of three offices. It was approved last fall as part of the capital improvement project (CIP) spending of \$750,000. White asked, "Was that necessary?" Clerk Leon Wright said most municipalities build new buildings when they want to upgrade, but VBT renovated. The last renovation of the building was in 1996 when the Downtown Development Authority did the work; and

- Heard Mary Ban of Sumpter Township explain her efforts to get Kroger to put a grocery store in the vacant Kmart on Rawsonville Road in VBT. She thanked

Director Best for giving her demographics on the Kmart building, but she said she needed to get the date of the figures to know it is current. "Many people feel VBT is not meeting the needs of residents in the south end," she said. She said people have expressed dissatisfaction with all the traffic on Belleville Road and said, "They don't like to shop like that. Going across the bridge is something else." The information she has shows there are 234,030 people within 10 miles of Kmart. She also said residents in this area need a laundromat and have to go to Milan or Canton for a laundromat. Trustee Reggie Miller said she called Schostak, which leases the property housing the old Kmart and they told her that people across the country have been asking Kroger to move into vacant Kmart. "We have been proactive on the south side of town," said Trustee Miller. She asked Ban to come up and talk to the board after the meeting if she had any other ideas.

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Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

Sumpter Township Public Notice

NOTICE OF ELECTION

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

MARCH 10, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SUMPTER TOWNSHIP:

Notice is hereby given that Presidential Primary Election will be held in Sumpter Township on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

AT THE FOLLOWING POLLING LOCATIONS:

Precinct 1 & 3	Sumpter Community Center, 23501 Sumpter Road
Precinct 2	Moose Lodge, 45476 Harris Road
Precinct 5	Sumpter Community Center, 23501 Sumpter Road
Precinct 4 & 6	Fire Station #1, 20550 Sumpter Road

For the purposes of electing a candidate to the following office:

• PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Please take notice that the residents of Sumpter Township will be voting on the following millage proposal as presented and listed below:

• RENEWAL OF WAYNE COUNTY ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY MILLAGE:

THE ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY IS PERMITTED BY LAW TO SEEK A RENEWAL OF THE MILLAGE AT A RATE OF NO MORE THAN THE CURRENT 0.2 MILL (20 CENTS PER \$1,000 TAXABLE VALUE) ON ALL REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IF APPROVED AND LEVIED, THIS MILLAGE RENEWAL WOULD GENERATE APPROXIMATELY \$8,500,000 IN 2022.

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the Sumpter Township office located at 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111. Sample ballots can also be found at www.mi.gov/vote.

Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the local clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot.

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the township clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

Sumpter Township

Notice of Public Accuracy Test of Voting Equipment

To the qualified electors of the Sumpter Township, Wayne County, State of Michigan: Notice is hereby given that a Public Accuracy Test for the electronic equipment that will be used in Precinct 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 for the Presidential Primary is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sumpter Township Boardroom, located at 23480 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer programming used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of Michigan election law.

Esther Hurst
Sumpter Township Clerk
(734) 461-6201

Published: February 27, 2020
Posted: February 24, 2020

Sumpter Township Public Notice

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

2020

MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF SUMPTER TOWNSHIP. THE SUMPTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW WILL BE MEETING AT THE SUMPTER TOWNSHIP HALL, 23480 SUMPTER ROAD, BELLEVILLE, MI 48111 ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

<i>Tuesday, March 3, 2020</i>	<i>4:30 PM Organizational Meeting</i>
<i>Monday, March 9, 2020</i>	<i>1:00 PM - 9:00 PM Appointments</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 11, 2020</i>	<i>9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Appointments</i>

All hearings are by appointment only and must be accompanied by a petition form. Please call one of the numbers below for an appointment. Petitions are available at the Sumpter Township Supervisors Office or download a petition for at www.michigan.gov/treasury: click on forms: type in form number L-4035.

Written appeals are accepted as well and must be accompanied by a petition form and received in the assessing department by Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 4:00 pm. No postmarks are accepted. Mail petitions to: Sumpter Township Board of Review 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111.

Hardship/poverty exemptions are accepted as well. Please call the assessing department for more information on this exemption.

Any questions regarding the Board of Review, contact the Supervisor's Office at (734) 461-6201 ext. 2229, or the Assessing Department, Tuesdays & Thursday at (734) 461-6201 ext. 2236.

Publish: February 20th, February 27th, March 5th

Esther Hurst
Clerk
Sumpter Township

Manistee judge modifies Judge Parrott’s pretrial release conditions

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After a bond hearing on Tuesday morning, a Manistee County District Court Judge modified 34th District Court Judge David Parrott’s pretrial release order to allow him to be free as long as he continued to wear his Soberlink device.

The Manistee County prosecutor had moved that Parrott’s bond be revoked for a violation of parole which would send him to jail to await trial on a drunk-driving charge that now is in the Michigan Court of Appeals.

The judge said it would be too heavy-handed to put Parrott in jail to await word from the court of appeals in that he could serve more than the 93-day sentence he would get if he was found guilty of the charge.

The bond hearing was televised live by WXYZ.

The judge said since Parrott is already wearing Soberlink as part of his bond agreement for the Wayne County charge of domestic violence, he is ordered to submit Soberlink reports to his probation department four times a day as scheduled by their probation officer.

He emphasized that Parrott has a problem with alcohol that led to the two charges he is facing. He was ordered not to possess, purchase or use any alcohol or other non-prescription drugs and not use medical marijuana and to comply with other orders in his Wayne County bond for his domestic violence charge.

Testifying by Polycom from Van Buren Township were VBT Officer Michael Rini, Sgt. Marc Abdilla, and Lt. Charles Bazzy. The first two told of the Feb. 8 domestic violence charge that started earlier that day at the Polar Plunge at the BYC and ended in the evening with an argument. Lt. Bazzy said Parrott’s ex-wife came to the police department on Feb. 14 to ask if one of Parrott’s guns that he turned over to police, a 44 magnum, was still registered to her and it was, a civil infraction.

The judge did not find this important to the motion before him.

Parrott’s pretrial on the domestic violence charge is set for 8:30 a.m., Feb. 28, at 35th District Court in Plymouth.

Saginaw Valley State Univ. honors two from Belleville

More than 1,800 students from Saginaw Valley State University earned a spot on the fall 2019 semester deans’ list, including Tyrell Wheeler and Tiffany Wheeler of Belleville. They both were honored for academic excellence.

To be eligible for the dean’s list, a student must take at least 12 credit hours and carry a semester GPA of 3.4 or better.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 447 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Feb. 16:

0459 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood
1335 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1354 – assist other dept., Tyler Rd.
1437 – operating while intoxicated, Locust Dr.
1533 – domestic, Oak Ln.
1616 – 911 welfare check, E. Sadie Ln.
2159 – property damage accident, Aspen Ln.

Monday, Feb. 17:

0425 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0728 – family trouble, Lighthouse
1422 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.
1429 – domestic, Fret Rd.
1457 – suspicious person/vehicle, Holly
1605 – private property impound, S. Purple Sage Ct.
1617 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.
1625 – fraud, Denton Rd.
1929 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2035 – breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.
2055 – road hazard, Westlake

Tuesday, Feb. 18:

0828 – private property/property damage accident, Denton Rd.
1140 – civil matter, Lake Point Blvd.
1150 – malicious destruction of property, E. Huron River Dr.
1214 – assist citizen, Robson Rd.
1237 – traffic offense, Haggerty Rd.
1322 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1355 – noise complaint, Martz Rd.
1617 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
1645 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1809 – family trouble, Bayshore Dr.
1838 – threat, Morton Taylor Rd.
1844 – larceny from auto, Meadows Cir.
1844 – traffic offense, W. I-94/Belleville
1920 – property damage accident, Savage Rd. / Martinsville Rd.

Wednesday, Feb. 19:

0215 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0517 – robbery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0645 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
0654 – abandoned auto, W. Huron River Dr./Hoeft
0702 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ryznar Dr.
0740 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler/Morton

Taylor

1028 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1027 – suicidal person, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1056 – ordinance violation, North Cumberland Dr.
1134 – ordinance violation, South Cumberland Dr.
1141 – civil matter, Oak Ln.
1322 – animal complaint, Bemis Rd.
1330 – animal complaint, Ecorse/Morton Taylor
1334 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1403 – disorderly, Rogers Ave.
1532 – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.
1741 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
1805 – threat, Van Born
1816 – trespassing, Rawsonville Rd.
2015 – leaving the scene of a property damage

accident, Haggerty Rd.
2340 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.

Thursday, Feb. 20:

0233 – missing person, E. Sadie Ln.
0509 – disorderly, Rogers Ave.
0812 – weapons violation, N. Cumberland Dr.
0830 – animal complaint, Parkwood Dr.
0904 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd.
1101 – ordinance violation, S. Cumberland Dr.
1108 – ordinance violation, N. Cumberland Dr.
1109 – juvenile complaint, Sadie Ln.
1130 – ordinance violation, Togowtee Pass
1133 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
1308 – ordinance violation, N. Cumberland Dr.
1311 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hawthorne Ct.
1330 – 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1340 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Borgman Ave.
1507 – private property/property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.

1516 – animal complaint, Patty Ln.
1535 – domestic, Lake Point Blvd.
1623 – parking complaint, Kent Ln.

1642 – civil matter, Park Estates Dr.
1855 – parking complaint, Rawsonville Rd.
1913 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1954 – traffic offense, Haggerty Rd./Tyler
2102 – 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
2310 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.

Friday, Feb. 21:

0049 – domestic, Locust Dr.
0210 – animal complaint, Morton Taylor Rd.
0843 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
0849 – ordinance violation, Pebblebrook Dr.
0938 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.
1032 – ordinance violation, Vista Dr.
1438 – ordinance violation, Rickman Dr.
1602 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1618 – larceny, Preswick Ct.
1621 – assist citizen, Village Center Dr.
1909 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1932 – follow up by officer, Van Buren Ln.
1932 – suspicious person/vehicle, Birch Dr.
1939 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2127 – traffic offense, Park Estates Dr.
2214 – animal complaint, Mott
2324 – 911 welfare check, Arlene Ln.

Saturday, Feb. 22:

0023 – noise complaint, W. Huron River Dr.
0121 – neighbor trouble, Denton Rd.
0216 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0810 – assist other dept., Church
0851 – overdose, Old Michigan Rd.
0911 – breaking & entering, Borgman Ave.
1003 – traffic offense, DNR Boat Launch Rawsonville
1310 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Parkwood Dr.
1410 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
1556 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1640 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1712 – fraud, Linda Vista Ct.
1741 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.

1820 – traffic offense, Village Center Dr.
1840 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1904 – suspicious person/vehicle, Jackson St.
2026 – found property/child, Marlowe Ave.
2041 – fight, Rawsonville Rd.
2055 – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd.
2205 – 911 welfare check, Tyler Rd.
2224 – domestic, W. Archwood Dr.
2226 – shooting, N. I-94 Service Dr./E. Archwood
2342 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harmony Ln.

Also on this week’s log are 212 traffic stops, 67 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 16:

0006 – intrusion alarm, Madelon St.
0136 – fight, Main St.
0532 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
1306 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.
1734 – assist other dept., Brain St.
1752 – trespassing, Menlo Park Dr.
1822 – animal complaint, Carmell St.
2252 – shooting, Victorian Ln.

Monday, Feb. 17:

0343 – assist fire dept., Main St.
1543 – motorist assist, Church St./Roys St.
2029 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

Tuesday, Feb. 18:

0907 – property damage accident, W. Columbia
1150 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
2304 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
2312 – neighbor trouble, Loza Ln.

Wednesday, Feb. 19:

0033 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
0954 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
1104 – private property/property damage accident, Main St.
1453 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1524 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
1532 – property damage accident, Main St.
1825 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
2020 – welfare check, Main St.

Thursday, Feb. 20:

0346 – warrant arrest, Main St.
0635 – vehicle lockout, Biggs Ave.
0822 – intrusion alarm, N. Liberty St.
1055 – intrusion alarm, S. Aberdeen Ct.
1500 – intrusion alarm, Anaheim St.

1526 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1809 – malicious destruction, Estrada
1820 – 911 welfare check, Main St.
2305 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.

Friday, Feb. 21:

1614 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1856 – assist fire dept., Fourth St.
Saturday, Feb. 22:
0119 – vehicle lock out, Menlo Park Dr.
0806 – domestic, Church St.
1655 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

Also on this week’s log are 16 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 16:

0350 – animal complaint, Judd Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1147 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1408 – alarm, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1555 – mental health call, Vermont St.
1823 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.

Monday, Feb. 17:

0956 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1050 – recovered stolen property, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1335 – fire dept. assist, Wyoming St.
1344 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1523 – suspicious incident, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1801 – follow-up investigation, Greenmeadow Dr.
1937 – traffic complaint, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.

Tuesday, Feb. 18:

0157 – alarm, 6400 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
0736 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0841 – alarm, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
0947 – assist other agency, 19000 bl. Sumpter
1341 – civil matter, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1601 – suspicious incident, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1714 – suspicious person, Stonecrest Dr.

Wednesday, Feb. 19:

0800 – suspicious person, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
0908 – animal complaint, Willis Rd./Rawsonville
0932 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1223 – assist other agency, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1303 – assist other agency, Bemis Rd./Elwell Rd.
1337 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1701 – fire dept. assist, Brookview Dr.
2002 – citizen assist, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2025 – suspicious incident, Hampshire Dr.

Thursday, Feb. 20:

0024 – suspicious person, Timberlane Dr.
0530 – property damage accident, Wilmot/Willis
0556 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0617 – property damage accident, 50000 bl. Willis
1333 – civil matter, 29000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1533 – follow-up investigation, Redwood Dr.
1845 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Arkona Rd.

Friday, Feb. 21:

1138 – civil matter, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1715 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, Feb. 22:

0016 – noise complaint, Washington St.
1701 – suspicious incident, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1715 – juvenile complaint, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1830 – suspicious person, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 51 traffic stops, 17 patrol checks, and seven miscellaneous details.

Birthdays

March 1 – Jennifer Price
March 3 – Chris Dunt, Patty Miller
March 4 – Kitty Chudzinski
March 6 – James Chudzinski

Do you or someone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* and we will publish as soon as possible.

Anniversaries

March 15 – Ralph and Arlene Bird, 73

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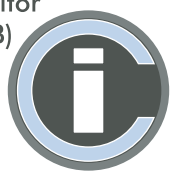
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Kate Marsh, Ian Harris engaged

Kate Linnaea Marsh and Ian Marshall Harris, both of Ypsilanti Township, are engaged to be married. Their wedding is scheduled for Jan. 23, 2021.

Kate is the daughter of Tim and Karen Marsh of Van Buren Township. Ian is the son of Douglas W. Harris of Portage and Lorri Harris Walch of Kalamazoo.

Kate grew up in Van Buren Township and graduated from Belleville High School in 2012. Ian grew up in Portage and graduated from Portage Northern High School in 2012. They met in their degree program at Eastern Michigan University and graduated together in 2017. They both work in Ann Arbor.



Kate Marsh and Ian Harris
www.melanieelaine photography.com

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City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes Monday, February 3, 2020

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Bates	Present
Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Council Member Voigt	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS
Presentations

• On behalf of City Council, Mayor Conley presented a service award to retiring City Manager Diana Kollmeyer

Council follow up list

Council Member Bates asked that #7 High Street banners be removed, and that #5 Doane's Landing restoration be updated.

Citizen Comments None

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Voigt to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve the City Council special meeting minutes from January 25th and regular City Council minutes from January 27th, 2020 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. PUBLIC HEARING None

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Knights of Columbus Annual Tootsie Roll Drive
Motion by Fielder, Second by Voigt to approve Resolution No. 20-011 approving the Knights of Columbus "tootsie roll" fundraiser on April 3-5 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Five Points area as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. BACA – Blues Festival

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Bates to approve Resolution No. 20-012 allowing BACA to use Fourth Street Square and close Main Street between Third and Fifth Streets for the Belleville Blues Fest on July 25, 2020 from 12:30 to 9 p.m. as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. FY 2018-19 Audit Presentation

Jay Wilde from Alan C. Young and Associates gave the annual audit presentation. The City received an unmodified opinion on its FYE 2019 financial

statements.

D. Mayor's Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

Motion by Fielder, Second by Bates to approve Resolution No. 20-013 appointing Council Member Ken Voigt to replace Tom Smith as chairman of the ZBA.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Acting City Manager Stipend

Motion by Voigt, Second by Marcotte to approve Resolution No. 20-014 approving a temporary pay increase of \$2.69 per hour for DPS Director Rick Rutherford while he serves as Acting City Manager. Pay increase is effective February 4, 2020 and will remain in place until an interim or permanent City Manager is appointed.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Interim City Manager Search

Motion by Fielder, Second by Voigt to approve Resolution No. 20-015 to call a special meeting on February 10, 2020 to consider appointing an interim city manager.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion by Fielder, Second by Voigt to amend the previous motion to include considering a police chief appointment at the February 10, 2020 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Bates, Second by Fielder to approve Resolution No. 20-016, for accounts payable and purchases over \$500.00 totaling \$16,460.62 with one revision: the addition of Fire Store scene lights for \$1,897.49.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

John Juriga stated that the Planning Commission needs to consider appointing a new member. Steve Jones thanked Manager Kollmeyer for always being there for the Planning Commission and wished her luck on her retirement. Fire Chief Brian Loranger said that Manager Kollmeyer was always fair in their many meetings and that he appreciated all she had done.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bates, Second by Voigt to adjourn meeting at 9:03 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Scharf,
City Clerk

Approved: February 18, 2020
Published: February 27, 2020



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EXTRA FEATURES

NOW PENDING

13731 ELWELL, VAN BUREN TWP
LARGER 5 BEDROOM, 3 Bath Ranch with Large Living Room, Fireplace, Solarium Room, Deck, Basement, Newer Roof, Newer 90+ Furnace and Central Air, Separate Living Area with Bedroom, Bath and Second Kitchen. \$239,900

BOOMING WITH ROOM

48024 BEMIS, VAN BUREN TWP
ORIGINAL OWNER 2,500 Square Foot Brick Colonial Offering 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Hardwood Floors Everywhere, Large Family Room with Fireplace, Basement, Huge Fenced Yard, 2 1/2 Car Garage. \$242,900

BELLEVILLE LAKE

42101 S 1-94 SERVICE DR VAN BUREN
YOUR OWN PRIVATE WORLD A Total of 5,263 Square Feet! 4 Bedroom 3 Full and 2 Half Baths, INTERIOR POOL, High End Premium Built Brick 3 Level Home. 100+ Feet of Lake Frontage, Double Dock & SAND BEACH. \$898,900

PRIME LOCATION

41405 TYLER, VAN BUREN
PRIME LOCATION. Corner of Haggerty and Tyler. Opportunity Awaits - 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath Home. Large Lot with Larger 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage. This Property could be the key to a larger development parcel. \$135,000

QUARTZ KITCHEN

42889 STRATFORD, VAN BUREN
A MOST PREFERRED and Private Setting! 3 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath, Quartz Kitchen with Hardwood Floors, Fireplace, Large Deck, Jacuzzi Tub. Finished Basement with Wet Bar 3 Car Garage, BRAND NEW ROOF IN 2020. \$289,900

DUPLEX OR SINGLE FAMILY

10106 WILLIS, WILLIS
HUGE HOME in the Village of Willis. Residential Zoning and used as a Duplex. 2 Kitchens, 2 Baths, 2 Living Rooms, and 5 Bedrooms. A Home Filled with Historic Character and Charm plus Basement, 90+ Furnace, 2 Car Detached Garage, Covered Porch and Large Lot. \$172,900

4,224 SQUARE FEET

23560 SUMPTER, SUMPTER TWP
RESIDENTIAL OR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. Possible Residential, Day Care, Group Home, Apartments or Your Ideas Large front covered porch. Large Covered Patio & fireplace and patio area. Fire System. 10 Bedrooms, 2 Apartment Kitchens, 5 Bathrooms. \$225,000

1 ACRE + POLE BARN

17164 RENTON, VAN BUREN TWP
LARGE COUNTRY HOME on more than an Acre. Just minutes from expressways and shopping. Open Floor Plan with Huge Rooms, Wood Flooring, Fireplace, Rear Patio, Fire Pit with 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage PLUS Pole Barn. A Serene Setting with Mature Trees \$199,900.

DREAM WORKSHOP

44280 DUNN, SUMPTER TWP
LARGE 2,700 SQUARE FOOT COUNTRY HOME on 2.24 ACRES with Possible Split. This home could use some updating 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, bright and open kitchen, family room with wood stove, covered patio. Many outbuildings. \$189,500

FOR SALE OR LEASE

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PROPERTY 20+ ACRES WEAR RD \$175,000
TORREY 2.48 AC PERC & SURV \$48,000
VACANT BALL ROMULUS .34 AC \$19,000
SUMPTER EXETER TWP 8 ACRES \$65,000
VACANT RAWSONVILLE 2.6 AC \$95,000
19 AC BREST ROAD TAYLOR \$550,000

VACANT SUMPTER & WILLIS COMM & RESIDENTIAL ZONING 25 ACR \$250,000
JUDD 10 ACRES SUMPTER TWP \$100,000
SAVAGE 1 ACRE SUMPTER TWP \$45,000
25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000
SHERWOOD 37.55 AC BY WEARS \$189,900
24053 BOHN 3.3 ACRES SUMPTER \$67,000

WILLIS SUMPTER 1.14 ACRES \$60,000
28710 SUMPTER ROAD \$10,000
VACANT BALL ROMULUS .34 AC \$19,000
GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 ACRES LT IN \$72,000
HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000
VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$70,000
16265 DIX SOUTHGATE 1.6 AC \$155,000

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VACANT 50115 BOG 29 ACRES \$160,000
MORTON TAYLOR 1.8 ACRES \$30,000
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$70,000
10 AC BUNTON YPSILANTI TWP \$155,000

HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 ACRES \$65,000
HURON TWP VAC CLARK 1.12 ACRE \$75,000
HURON TWP VAC OTTER 2.94 ACRES \$80,000
HURON TWP VAC BELL 2.48 ACRES \$75,000
HURON TWP VAC BELL 2.48 ACRES \$75,000
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$70,000
VACANT BALL ROMULUS .34 AC \$19,000

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24 month lease for \$125 per month*
OR 0% APR + \$2,000 cash.

**PAYING TOP \$ FOR
YOUR TRADE-IN!**



**2020 F-150 SUPERCREW
XLT LUXURY 4x4**
24 month lease for \$137 per month*
OR \$10,000 cash.



**2020 EXPLORER
4WD XLT**
24 month lease for \$193 per month*
OR 0% APR + \$4,540 cash.



**2017 FORD
F-150 XLT**
Comes with Limited
Comprehensive Warranty!
\$26,000

* WITH APPROVED CREDIT FOR RETURNING A/Z PLAN LESSEES, INCLUDES MODEL RENEWAL AND/OR COMPETITOR REBATES. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT. 10,500 MILES A YEAR FOR 24MO. PAYMENT PLUS TAX, \$3,000 DOWN, PLUS FIRST PAYMENT TAXES, TITLE, DOC. FEE AND LICENSE DUE AT SIGNING. EXPIRES 3/2/2020